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Pre-Election Survey of Major Russian Media

A Reference Aid

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Pre-Election Survey of Major Russian Media

A Reference Aid

This media survey is intended as a reference aid on the political characteristics of major Russian media monitored by FBIS. The first section of the survey lists selected sources in alphabetical order and gives a brief description of each. The body of the survey provides more detailed information on the media, which are grouped by type (electronic or print) and audience (national or Moscow/St. Petersburg). Where information is publicly available, the survey will list ownership, affiliations, or sponsorship of the media; the name of the director or chief editor; FBIS's assessment of the editorial line; and other pertinent political data.

Quick Reference to Selected Russian Media

ARGUMENTY I FAKTY--A very popular national reformist weekly; apparently the paper of choice for Yeltsin's hard-line advisor Aleksandr Korzhakov whose rare interviews appear almost exclusively on its pages.

EKHO MOSKVY--An independent Moscow radio station funded by Vladimir Gusinskiy; proreform and occasionally sharply critical of Yeltsin.

INTERFAX--An independent, reform oriented news agency; carries extensive economic news.

* ITAR-TASS--An official state news agency which shows a markedly pro-Yeltsin bias; apparently cooperates with Russian intelligence services.

IZVESTIYA--An independent proreform national daily with a reputation as a solid, serious news source.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY--A promarket Moscow daily focusing on economic news but also providing valuable reporting on Russian political developments.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA--A very popular proreform national daily; anti-Yeltsin and occasionally critical of the West; a rich source of materials on intelligence and military topics.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA--The official daily of the Russian Ministry of Defense; lobbies for military interests and airs internal Ministry debates on security issues.

* MAYAK--A national radio station with a usually pro-Yeltsin editorial line; according to recent listener suveys, the second most listened to station in Russia.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS--A boldly outspoken proreform Moscow daily focusing considerable attention on the "power" ministries; often sensationalistic, it is the most popular daily in Moscow.

MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI--a proreform weekly persistently critical of Yeltsin.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA--a low circulation but provocative Moscow daily; provides a forum for a wide range of opinions and plays the role of political gadfly.

NTV--Russia's only national level (80 million potential viewers) news-oriented independent television company; proreform and often critical of Yeltsin, provides broader coverage of the political opposition than either ORT or RTV.

OBSHCHAYA GAZETA--A proreform Moscow weekly, persistently critical of Yeltsin; focuses considerable attention on the intelligence services and the criminal underworld.

PRAVDA--A national neocommunist daily, loosely affiliated with Russia's main communist party, the CPRF.

PRAVDA ROSSII--A nationally distributed supplement to Pravda and Sovetskaya Rossiya, sponsored by the CPRF.

POSTFACTUM--An independent proreform news agency.

* PUBLIC RUSSIAN TELEVISION--The most widely watched national television company, majority government owned and closely controlled, openly pro-Yeltsin and pro-Chernomyrdin.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA--A national daily affiliated with Russian trade unions but sympathetic to the Chernomyrdin government.

RADIO ROSSII--A reformist national radio station; according to recent listener surveys the most popular station in Russia.

* RIA-NOVOSTI--An official news agency tasked with promoting Russia's image abroad.

* ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA--A controversial and aggressively partisan national daily, sponsored by the Chernomyrdin government; nationalist, anti-Western, occasionally anti-reform, and very pro-Yeltsin.

* ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI--A proreform and pro-Yeltsin national daily sponsored by Sergey Filatov's Presidential Administration.

* RUSSIAN TELEVISION--A proreform national television company, occasionally critical of Yeltsin but staunchly anti-opposition.

SEGODNYA--A proreform Moscow daily which aggressively defends Russian national interests and is occasionally sharply critical of the West.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN--A national daily closely associated with the Agrarian Party; anti-land reform, anti-privatization, and anti-Yeltsin.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA--A national daily closely associated with the CPRF; nationalist and harshly critical of Yeltsin, reforms, and the West.

TRUD--A national daily devoted largely to labor and social-welfare issues; moderately proreform and pro-Western, Trud enjoys one of the largest circulations of Russian newspapers.

ZAVTRA--This Moscow daily is the most vociferous critic of the Russian political status quo; often inflammatory and conspiracy-minded, it advocates a return to the authoritarian past.

* Denotes media accredited to attend sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Presidium of the Council of Ministers.

PART I
National Electronic Media

Section A. National Television Networks

NTV

DIRECTOR: Igor Malashenko

NTV is the only news-oriented independent television company operating at the national level. It is available to roughly 80 million of Russia's 150 million residents. High-level Russian officials have repeatedly threatened NTV with lawsuits and suspension of license for its daring news coverage and political satire. Like RTV, NTV is proreform, often critical of Yeltsin, and anti-opposition. Most Bank Chairman Vladimir Gusinskiy--who gives financial support to NTV, the daily newspaper SEGODNYA, and the radio station EKHO MOSKVY--and the hardline and influential Presidential Security Service Chief Aleksandr Korzhakov are bitter political enemies. NTV relies on the state-controlled national broadcasting infrastructure to broadcast its programs. Programs of interest include: Segodnya [Today--a daily news program]; Itogi [Results--a weekly news magazine]; Versii [Versions]; Geroy Dnya [Hero of the Day], and Kukly [Puppets]. Itogi anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev, a frequent critic of Yeltsin, is one of Russia's most prominent journalists.

*PUBLIC RUSSIAN TELEVISION [ORT] **

OWNERSHIP: A joint stock company 51% state owned and 49% privately owned. State-owned shares are held by the State Property Committee, Itar-Tass, and the Television Technical Center. Private shares are held by LogoVAZ, the Mikrodin Joint Stock Co., Menatep Bank, Natsionalnyy Kredit Bank, Alfa-Bank, the Stolichnyy Savings Bank, Obedinennyy Bank, Gazprom, and the National Sports Fund.

DIRECTOR: Sergey Blagovolin

ORT is openly pro-Yeltsin and pro-Chernomyrdin, though it has granted significant airtime and even a regular program slot to leading opposition politician and journalist Aleksandr Nevzorov. ORT was created amid controversy when Russian President Yeltsin decreed the partial privatization of Ostankino, Russia's largest and most widely watched television company, in November 1994. It began operations in April 1995. According to viewer surveys, ORT continues to be the most watched television company in Russia. Boris Berezovskiy--a leading Russian businessman and Yeltsin supporter who claims good relations with Yeltsin security chief Korzhakov and who also gives financial

support to TV-6 and Nezavisimaya Gazeta--is one of the leading private investors in ORT and apparently has great influence over the company's operations. Programs of interest include: Vremya [Time] and Novosti [News]--both of which are news programs); Chas Pik [Rush Hour]; Moskva. Kreml [Moscow. The Kremlin]; Odin na Odin [One on One]; Dikoye Pole [The Borderlands]; Vzglyad [View]; Iz Pervykh Ruk [At First Hand]; Voskresenye [Resurrection-a weekly news magazine]; Press Klub [Press Club].

***RUSSIAN TELEVISION [RTV]* ***

SPONSOR: Council of Ministers

DIRECTOR: Oleg Poptsov

RTV is pro-reform, occasionally critical of Yeltsin, but staunchly anti-opposition. Poptsov makes no pretense of political neutrality. He agreed at one point to run as a candidate in the 1995 national legislative election with duma chairman Ivan Rybkin's electoral bloc, but later rescinded the decision. "Podrobnosti" [Details] host Nikolay Svanidze and "Vesti" [The News] anchorwoman Svetlana Sorokina are among the most outspokenly proreform journalists working on Russian television today. Programs of interest include: Vesti; Podrobnosti; Sovershenno Sekretno [Top Secret].

ST. PETERSBURG 5TH CHANNEL

SPONSOR: Council of Ministers

DIRECTOR: Oleg Rudnov

Rudnov was appointed in June 1995 to replace the former director Bella Kurkova, a proreform onetime Yeltsin supporter who resigned amidst charges of corruption. Rudnov was reportedly recommended by St. Petersburg's reformist mayor Anatoliy Sobchak to replace Kurkova. St. Petersburg Television's potential audience is about 75 million viewers but the station suffers from chronically low ratings.

TV-6

DIRECTOR: Eduard Sagalayev

TV-6 is Russia's first national-level independent television company and is devoted largely to entertainment programming. It reaches a potential audience of 75 million viewers. TV-6 is partly owned by Boris Berezovskiy, though according to Sagalayev, Berezovskiy does not play an active role in programming decisions.

Section B. News Agencies

ITAR-TASS *

SPONSOR: Council of Ministers

DIRECTOR: Vitaliy Ignatenko

Itar-Tass is an official state news agency which bases its reports on official sources and shows a markedly pro-Yeltsin bias. In addition to his position as head of Itar-Tass, Ignatenko was appointed by Yeltsin in May 1995, apparently with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's agreement, to the post of deputy prime minister with responsibility for media affairs. He has expressed, and the agency's editorial line appears to demonstrate, a willingness to cooperate with Russia's intelligence services.

INTERFAX

DIRECTOR: Mikhail Komissar

Interfax is an independent, generally reliable, reform oriented news agency. In addition to general political reporting, it carries extensive economic and business news and is currently trying to expand its network of regional correspondents in Russia.

RIA-NOVOSTI *

SPONSOR: Council of Ministers

DIRECTOR: Vladimir Markov

In addition to news reporting, RIA is officially tasked with promoting Russia's image abroad. It is also tasked with providing information and analysis to support Russian domestic and foreign policy.

POSTFACTUM

SPONSOR: Gleb Pavlovskiy

EDITOR: Oleg Solodukhin

An independent proreform news agency, Postfactum reportedly has ties to the Kommersant Publishing Concern. Owner and former general director Gleb Pavlovskiy quit as general director in protest over Yeltsin's use of force against parliamentary opponents in October 1993.

Section C. National Radio Companies

RADIO ROSSII

SPONSOR: Council of Ministers

DIRECTOR: Sergey Davydov

A reformist radio station subordinate to Oleg Poptsov and together with RTV forming the backbone of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. According to recent listener surveys, Radio Rossii is the most listened to station in Russia.

***MAYAK* ***

SPONSOR: Council of Ministers

DIRECTOR: Vladimir Povolyayev

Formerly part of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, Mayak is less reformist than Radio Rossii and occsionally critical of the authorities. According to recent listener surveys, Mayak is the second most listened to radio station in Russia.

Part II
Moscow Television and Radio

EKHO MOSKVY

EDITOR: Sergey Korzun

Ekho Moskvy is an independent radio station supported by Vladimir Gusinskiy. It has an independent editorial line and has sharply criticized the Yeltsin administration and Chernomyrdin's NDR electoral bloc. Ekho Moskvy currently broadcasts to Moscow audiences but reportedly plans to begin nationwide broadcasting in 1996.

MOSCOW 2X2

DIRECTOR: Vladimir Troyepolskiy

An independent local Moscow television company which emphasizes entertainment programming but includes substantial daily news coverage and has a potential audience of 35 million viewers. 2x2 broadcasts over the MTK channel during non-prime time hours. 2x2 is funded by Video International, a joint venture advertising agency.

MTK

SPONSOR: Moskovskaya Telekompaniya Joint Stock Co.

DIRECTOR: Aygar Misyan

A local Moscow television company which gives emphasis to reporting on developments in Moscow. Leading MTK journalist Boris Notkin is a Yeltsin crony. Misyan has been criticized by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov for his programming decisions and has been criticized for airing programming produced by Yuriy Skokov's Congress of Russian Communities, an opposition nationalist political movement. Though MTK is a private company, it receives some funding from the Moscow City government.

Part III
National Daily Publications

Figures in parentheses denote print runs as reported by the sources themselves. Print runs do not necessarily reflect actual circulation.

IZVESTIYA
(604,765)

SPONSOR: Izvestiya Journalists' Collective

EDITOR: Igor Golembiovskiy

Izvestiya, once the premier proreform newspaper in Russia, has apparently lost some influence and access to high-level sources recently though it still remains among the leading serious proreform newspapers. Izvestiya is commercially funded and carries more advertising than most other papers. Izvestiya is at times critical of Yeltsin and very critical of the political oppostion.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA
(1,547,000)

SPONSOR: Journalists' Collective

EDITOR: Valeriy Simonov

Komsomolskaya Pravda is outspokenly proreform, critical of Yeltsin, sometimes critical of the West. It often engages in tabloid-style journalism, publishing titillating, sexually explicit materials and devoting attention to sensational episodes of violence. The paper is a frequent source of materials on Russian intelligence issues, published with apparent sympathy for the institutional interests of Russia's intelligence services. It also focuses on military issues. Former Yeltsin Press Secretary Pavel Voshchanov contributes political commentaries, taking a sharply anti-Yeltsin stance. Komsomolskaya Pravda has one of the top 3 circulations among Russian dailies and is widely read outside of Moscow. The paper reportedly receives financial support from Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
(107,350)

SPONSOR: The Ministry of Defense

EDITOR: V.L. Chupakhin

The official mouthpiecce of the MOD, Krasnaya Zvezda lobbies for military interests and is critical of the government and parliament. It has shown a willingness to criticize the government since the Chechnya invasion, and regularly chastises the government over cuts in military funding. Recently, it has taken a harder stance on relations with the West. Krasnaya Zvezda devotes significanct coverage to the legislative process where it concerns military issues and lobbies for increased defense spending. It also airs internal MOD debates on security issues.

PRAVDA
(165,000)

SPONSOR: The Pravda Journalists' Organization

EDITOR: Aleksandr Ilin

This neocommunist daily is loosely affiliated with the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) but advocates policies more orthodox, more internationalist, and less nationalist than the CPRF. Pravda continues to provide considerable coverage of the former Soviet republics. It collaborates with the more nationalist Sovetskaya Rossiya (more closely associated with the CPRF) in distributing Pravda Rossii, an official publication of the CPRF, as a weekly supplement. Greek businessman Yannis Yannikov reportedly owns a 55 percent share of Pravda.

PRAVDA ROSSII
(440,000)

SPONSOR: The Communist Party of the Russian Federation

EDITOR: Gennadiy Seleznev

Pravda Rossii is a weekly supplement to Pravda and Sovetskaya Rossiya. It promotes the political activities of the CPRF and publishes official party documents. Editor

Gennadiy Seleznev served as editor of Pravda following the August coup attempt until early 1992.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA
(175,000)

SPONSOR: The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the Rabochaya Tribuna Journalists' Collective

EDITOR: Timofey Kuznetsov

Despite its affiliation with trade unions, the paper has closely cooperated with the Russian Government, publishing the supplement Promyshlennyy Vestnik, described by former editor Anatoliy Yurkov (current chief editor at Rossiyskaya Gazeta) as a "government paper within our paper." The paper has continued the cooperation under Kuznetsov. Financial difficulties led to a brief publishing hiatus in the summer of 1995. Rabochaya Tribuna has organizational ties to Chernomyrdin's NDR electoral bloc and the Trade Unions and Industrialists of Russia--Union of Labor.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA *
(500,520)

SPONSOR: The Council of Ministers

EDITOR: Anatoliy Yurkov

The paper earned its reputation as one of Russia's most controversial sources by publishing attacks on political enemies, appearing to be a mouthpiece for Yeltsin's hardline security chief Aleksandr Korzhakov. The recent firing of Editor Natalya Polezhayeva and her replacement by Yurkov appears to have lessened somewhat the provocative nature of its journalism, although the change has not led to dramatic changes in the paper's staff, and some of the most controversial journalists continue to hold positions on the paper's editorial board. Rossiyskaya Gazeta journalist Vladimir Kucherenko, for example, is an occasional contributor to the ultranationalist, staunchly anti-reform Zavtra, where he writes pieces attacking Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. Rossiyskaya Gazeta is also considered a paper of record, devoting considerable space to publishing official documents issued by Yeltsin, the Government, the legislature and the courts. It is very pro-Yeltsin, nationalistic, anti-western, and at times antireform.

***ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI* ***
(130,000)

SPONSOR: The Presidential Staff and the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Editorial Collective

EDITOR: Valeriy Kucher

Proreform and pro-Yeltsin, the paper is often forced to walk an editorial tightrope, refraining from criticism of Yeltsin's increasingly antidemocratic and antireform policies. It publishes ministerial-level official documents. Head of the Presidential Administration Sergey Filatov is the Kremlin official with the closest ties to this paper. Rossiyskiye Vesti frequently publishes exposes on bureaucratic malfeasance and is sharply critical of the military's increasingly high-profile forays into politics.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN
(203,000)

SPONSOR: The Trade Union Organization of the Editorial Staff

EDITOR: A. Kharlamov

Selskaya Zhizn promotes the interests of the agricultural lobby and is closely associated with the Agrarian Party. It is increasingly anti-land reform, anti-privatization, and anti-Yeltsin. Selskaya Zhizn has a large rural audience.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
(250,000)

SPONSOR: The Journalist's Collective

EDITOR: Valentin Chikin

The paper is closely associated with the CPRF. It acts as a quasi-paper of record and publishes many of the party's statements, speeches, and documents. It is harshly and persistently critical of Yeltsin, western-style economic and political reform, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sovetskaya Rossiya is staunchly anti-western. It espouses a more nationalistic and less orthodox communist ideology than Pravda, but cooperates with Pravda in distributing the CPRF's Pravda Rossii as a weekly supplement. Sovetskaya Rossiya publishes occasional anti-semitic articles and cartoons. The paper has also served as a platform for the expression of views by nationalistically inclined members of the Russian Orthodox Church.

TRUD
(1,215,000)

SPONSOR: The labor collective of the Trud editorial staff

EDITOR: Aleksandr Potapov

Though largely apolitical, Trud is moderately proreform on economic issues and moderately pro-western in its foreign policy outlook. The paper was formerly associated with trade union organizations and has received financial support in the past from Vladimir Gusinskiy's Most Bank. It is reportedly receiving financial support from Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. It is pro-labor and addresses social welfare issues. Trud is one of the most popular national print media sources in Russia along with Komsomolskaya Pravda and Argumenty I Fakty.

Part IV
Moscow Daily Publications

DELOVOY MIR
(76,000)

SPONSOR: The Delovoy Mir Consortium and the Closed Joint Stock Co. Delovoy Mir Newspaper

EDITOR: Yuriy Kirpichnikov

A business oriented daily which devotes considerable attention to the former Soviet republics. It was shut down during the month of October due to financial difficulties. Delovoy Mir also publishes a weekly edition.

KOMMERSANT DAILY
(104,200)

SPONSOR: Kommersant Joint Stock Co.

EDITOR: Aleksandr Loktev

Kommersant-Daily is a promarket daily which focuses on economic developments but also provides some of the most straightforward political journalism available from the Russian media.

KURANTY
(107,000)

EDITOR: Anatoliy Pankov

This reform oriented Moscow daily has suffered from financial problems which led to a brief publishing hiatus in May and June of 1995. The paper resumed publishing in a weekly format in June and has since begun publishing several times weekly.

MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA
(377,000)

EDITOR: Shod Muladzhanov

Moskovskaya Pravda has a somewhat nationalist editorial line. It cooperates with Yeltsin adviser Andranik Migranyan in the publication of the nationalist "Moya Gazeta" weekly supplement.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS
(857,502)

EDITOR: Pavel Gusev

Very proreform and often critical of Yeltsin. Moskovskiy Komsomolets is often sensationalistic and vulgar. It focuses considerable attention on the activities of the "power" ministries and practices an occasionally reckless, no-holds-barred editorial style. It provides independent coverage of Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and city politics and

is the most widely read daily in Moscow. A leading critic of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
(50,400)

SPONSOR: The Editorial Staff

EDITOR: Vitaliy Tretyakov

Once the standard bearer for Russia's independent proreform press, Nezavisimaya Gazeta has suffered recently from personnel problems, defections of journalists, persistent financial difficulties, and a battle for control over the paper. While no longer the influential paper it once was, it continues to publish articles that demonstrate excellent access to information and sources and to publish insightful opinion pieces. The paper reportedly has recently struck a deal with entrepreneur and pro-Yeltsin Kremlin insider Boris Berezovskiy, a leading force at Public Russian Television, for financial backing that could put an end to the paper's chronic financial woes--not to mention its stubborn editorial independence. It has been one of the leading papers devoted to coverage of political developments in the former Soviet republics and to freedom of the press issues. Tretyakov is a leading critic of Yeltsin and authors a regular series of editorials lampooning not only Yeltsin and his inner circle but the entire spectrum of Russian politicians.

SEGODNYA
(100,000)

SPONSOR: The Segodnya Publishing House

EDITOR: Dmitriy Ostalskiy

A strongly proeconomic reform newspaper which aggressively defends Russian national interests and is occasionally sharply critical of the West. Like NTV and Ekho Moskvy, it receives financial support from Most Bank. Unlike Izvestiya, which is distributed throughout Russia, Segodnya's readership is restricted largely to Moscow.

Part V
Other Publications

ARGUMENTY I FAKTY
(3,200,000)

SPONSOR: Journalists' Collective

EDITOR: Vladislav Starkov

One of the pioneers of glasnost under Gorbachev, this national weekly has for years had the largest circulation of any print media source in Russia. Argumenty i Fakty is popular for its laconic reporting style and mixed political/popular content, though it has in recent years become more tabloid in style publishing sexually explicit materials and devoting attention to sensational episodes of violence. Argumenty i Fakty appears to be the paper of choice for Yeltsin security service chief Korzhakov, whose rare interviews appear almost exclusively on its pages.

GLASNOST
(40,000)

SPONSOR: The editorial staff labor collective

EDITOR: Yu. P. Izyumov

Glasnost is a biweekly paper representing the views of the more ideologically orthodox wing of the CPRF.

GOLOS
(210,364)

SPONSOR: Editorial Staff

EDITOR: Igor Ilin

A tabloid style weekly which provides considerable straightforward coverage of media issues.

KOMMERSANT
(104,000)

SPONSOR: Kommersant Joint Stock Co.

EDITOR: Igor Tulin

Similar to Kommersant Daily from which it republishes some materials, Kommersant provides more in depth analytical features.

LITERATURNAYA GAZETA
(280,000)

SPONSOR: The Literaturnaya Gazeta Labor Collective

EDITOR: A. Udaltsov

A proreform weekly emphasizing cultural issues but also devoting substantial attention to political and economic developments in lengthy think-pieces. Investigative reporter Yuriy Shchekhochikhin is regarded as the "dean" of Russian investigative journalism.

LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA

SPONSOR: The Russian Writers' Union and the Editorial Staff Collective

EDITOR: Vladimir Yeremenko

A nationalist, opposition weekly devoted largely to cultural issues but paying considerable attention to political and socio-economic issues.

MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI
(161,367)

SPONSOR: Moskovskiye Novosti Joint Stock Co.

EDITOR: Viktor Loshak

A bold and persistent critic of Yeltsin, this weekly has long been one of the most respected proreform sources in Russia. It also publishes an English language version.

NOVOYE VREMYA
(25,000)

SPONSOR: The Journalists' Collective

EDITOR: A. Pumpyanskiy

A strongly proreform weekly which focuses on foreign affairs with a decidedly pro-western bent. It also devotes significant attention to domestic politics and affairs in the former Soviet republics. For a long time the weekly had close ties to the Russian Ministry of foreign Affairs but it appeared to break with Foreign Minister Kozyrev over his support of the invasion of Chechnya.

OGONEK
(100,000)

SPONSOR: Ogonek Publishers Joint Stock Co.

EDITOR: L.N. Gushchin

Ogonek was a trendsetter of independent journalism during the glasnost era. The magazine's fortunes waned following the August coup attempt after which then editor Vitaliy Korotich was fired. Ogonek's stature has risen recently somewhat as it has adopted a more Western Time/Newsweek-style format. The weekly receives financial backing from Obedinennyy Bank where Kremlin insider Boris Berezovskiy is a major investor.

ROSSIYA
(76,215)

EDITOR: Aleksandr Drozdov

A proreform weekly and leading advocate of freedom of the press.

ROSSIYSKAYA FEDERATSIYA
(50,000)

SPONSOR: The Council of Ministers

EDITOR: Yuriy Khrenov

A bimonthly focusing on Russian regional affairs. Chairman of the editorial board and former editor Sliva is the chairman of the Duma Committee for Regional and Ethnic Policy is affiliated with Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray's PRES party.

SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII

SPONSOR: Presidential Administration

An official weekly which publishes nearly all official acts of the president, the legislature, and the Council of Ministers.

VEK
(87,000)

SPONSOR: The Ministry for Atomic Energy, the League of Coop Operators and Entrepreneurs, and the labor collective of the editorial staff

EDITOR: Aleksandr Kolodnyy

Vek, a weekly which focuses on economic issues and CIS affairs, was founded by the recently assasinated, politically well connected businessman Ivan Kivelidi.

ZAVTRA
(100,000)

SPONSOR: A.A. Khudorozhkov

EDITOR: Aleksandr Prokhanov

Feverishly anti-Yeltsin, Zavtra editor Prokhanov promotes nationalist, imperialist, authoritarian, communist, and socialist politicians willing to oppose Yeltsin and Western-style economic and political reforms. Zavtra often publishes wildly improbable conspiracy-minded analyses of Russian political developments, but also occasionally

publishes leaked documents, apparently from very high sources. Zavtra frequently publishes antisemitic materials.

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